

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 08443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: LIBERALS END REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN ON HIGH NOTE

1. JEREMY THORPE CONDUCTED FINAL LIBERAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN JUNE 3. HE ASSERTED THAT LIBERALS HAD MADE INNOVATIVE, IMAGINATIVE, AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CAMPAIGN TO KEEP BRITAIN IN EUROPE. THEY ORGANIZED MEETINGS IN APPROXIMATELY 500 CONSTITUENCIES ALONG WITH STREET THEATER, TALK-INS, FACTORY GATE MEETINGS, DOOR-TO-DOOR CANVASSING, ETC. THEY INVITED
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EUROPEAN LIBERALS TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGN. WHILE THIS

WAS CRITICIZED BY OTHER PARTIES AT AN EARLY STAGE, BRITISH AUDIENCES HAVE WELCOMED APPEARANCE ON PODIUM OF QUALIFIED EUROPEAN SPECIALISTS. LIBERALS ALSO CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS AT WHICH CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, UK COMMISSIONER TO EC, SPOKE.

2. LIBERALS HAVE MANIFESTED GREAT SENSE OF EXHILARATION AND ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THEIR CAMPAIGN. THEY FEEL THEY HAVE ELEVATED TONE OF DEBATE TO IDEALISTIC LEVEL ABOVE THE SQUABBLING ON THE STATISTICS ABOUT THE PRICE OF A LOAF OF BREAD, NUMBER OF JOBS, ETC. LIBERALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY SEEN EUROPEAN UNITY AS AN ULTIMATE IDEAL GOAL.

3. THORPE EXPECTS BRITISH ELECTORATE WILL VOTE OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF REMAINING IN EUROPE. HE HOPES FOR HEAVY VOTER PARTICIPATION. IN THE EVENT OF A SMALL VOTE AND A NEGATIVE MAJORITY, THORPE SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD NOT VOT IN PARLIAMENT TO TAKE BRITIAN OUT OF EUROPE AND DOES NOT BELIEVE OTHER LIBERAL PARLIAMENTARIAN WOULD EITHER. HOWEVER, LIBERAL POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT THIS IS A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE.

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